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~~from the global file, values for the global variables to which the local variables of the local file correspond.~~

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on May 1, 2000, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 9 and 25 are amended. Claims 1-25 remain pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Van Huben et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,297).

Applicant notes that the cited Van Huben et al patent issued March 7, 2000 and is cited under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Applicant believes that claims 1-25, as amended, are not anticipated by what is shown in the cited van Huben et al patent. Applicant reserves the right, if that should prove to be necessary, to provide evidence of invention of the claimed invention antedating the filing date of van Huben et al.

The cited Van Huben et al patent relates to IBM's data management system for file and database management which apparently includes a design control system for use in connection with the design of integrated circuits having many parts which need to be developed in a concurrent engineering environment with information provided by diverse users. Applicant notes that while there may be aspects of Van Huben which appear to have some superficial similarity with the aspects of the disclosure of Applicant's invention, Applicant's claims, as they are now amended specifically relate to a hierarchical cell population method and system that does not appear to be disclosed in the cited Van Huben et al patent.

Amended claim 1, for example, relates to Applicant's system for populating parameters of cells. It sets forth a specific manner of establishing parameters for the cells, each of which corresponds to a local file, based upon the global values in the global file by relating the local variables in the local files to the global variables such that changes in the global values may

cause changes in the cells. The claimed system for populating parameters of cells is not seen to be disclosed in the cited Van Huben et al patent.

Similarly, amended claim 9 relates to a computer-readable medium with a computer program stored thereon which updates a set of parameters of a cell "by relating local variables of a local file for the cell to global variables of a global file such that changes of a global variable in the global file may cause changes in the cells" is not anticipated by what is shown in the cited Van Huben et al patent. The specific citation to more than 13 columns of the specification of the Van Huben patent in the Office Action is not seen to show anticipation of each of the elements of amended independent claim 9 or its dependent claims 10-14.

Amended claim 15 includes a computer program for automatically updating a set of parameters for each of a plurality of cells in accordance with a specifically claimed process by "reading, from the global file, values for the global variables to which the local variables of the local file correspond". The Office Action contains no specific indication where each of the elements of the claim is to be found in the cited Van Huben et al patent so that no showing of anticipation of the claims 15-21 is made out.

No specific showing was made in the Office Action as to how the specifics of claim 22 and its dependent claims 22-25 are to be found in the cited Van Huben patent. The claimed method includes specific detailed method elements which define the parameter updating method claim which are believed to be distinguishable from anything that may be shown in the cited Van Huben patent. The Office action contains no specific citation of where it is in the cited patent that anticipation for each of the elements of the claims is to be found.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-25, as amended is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-25 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 373-6970 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

August 1, 2000

By

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on August 1, 2000.

Susan Donovan
Name

Susan Donovan
Signature

FIG 1(a)

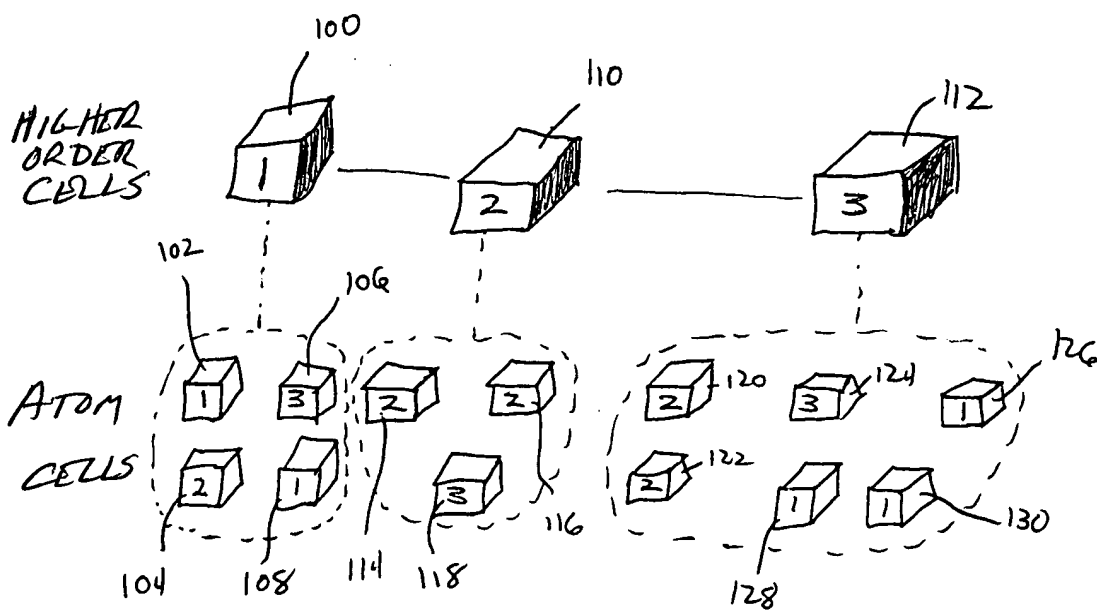


FIG 1(b)

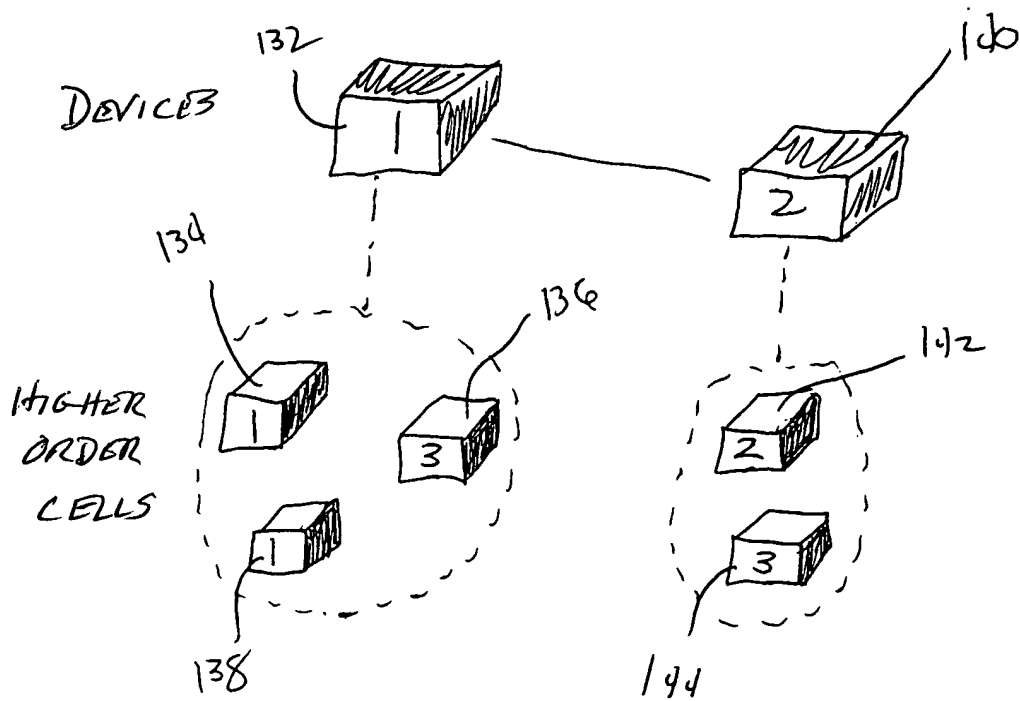


FIG 1(c)

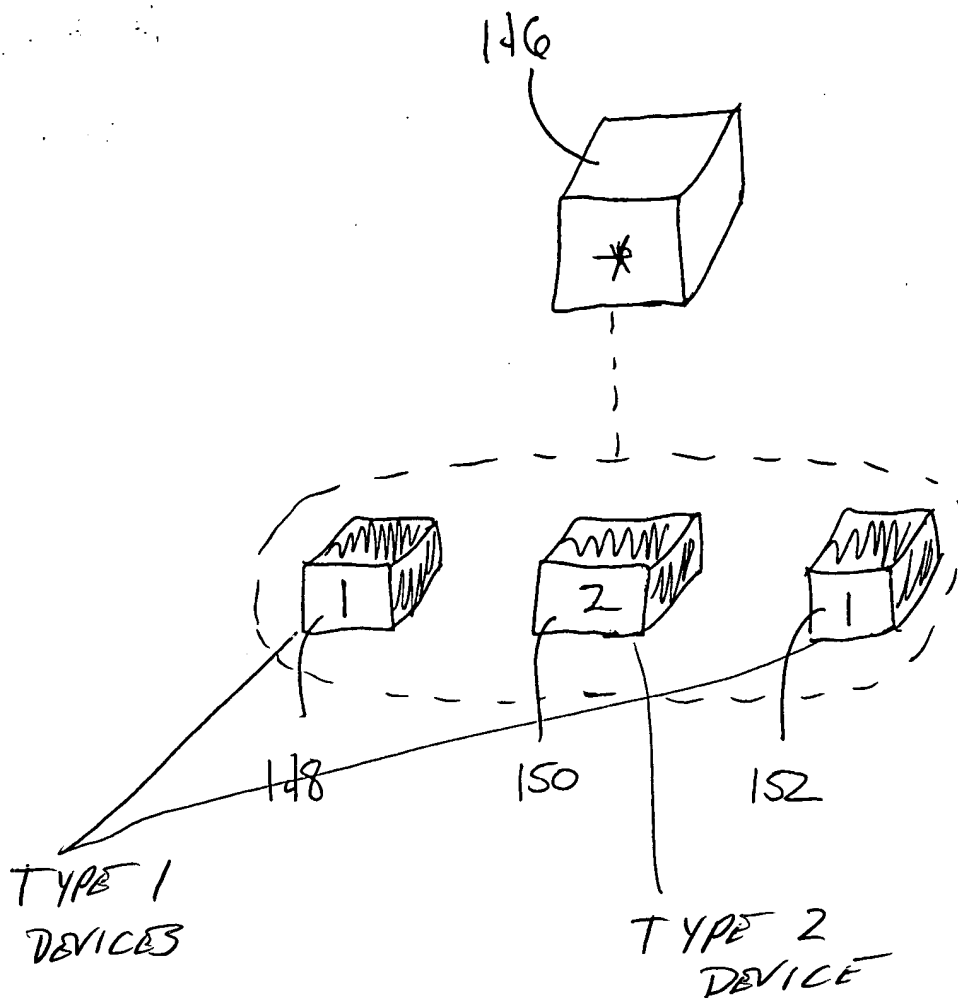
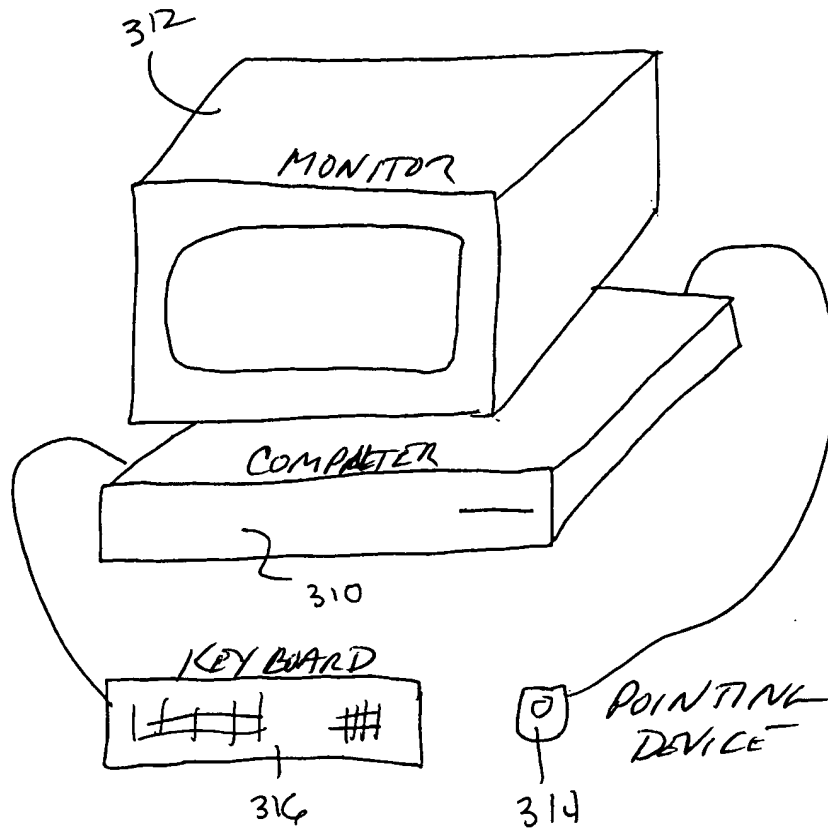
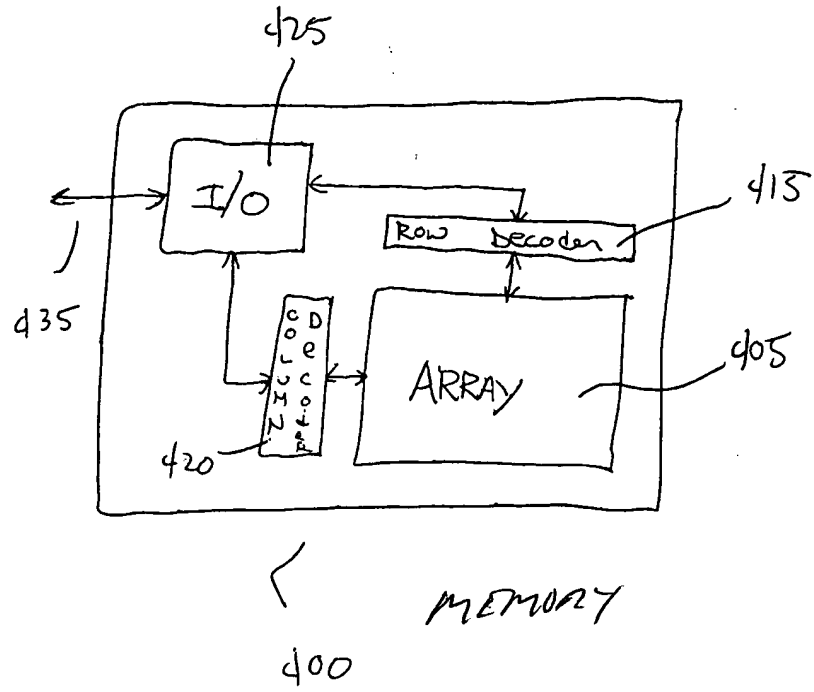


FIG 2



FIG

3



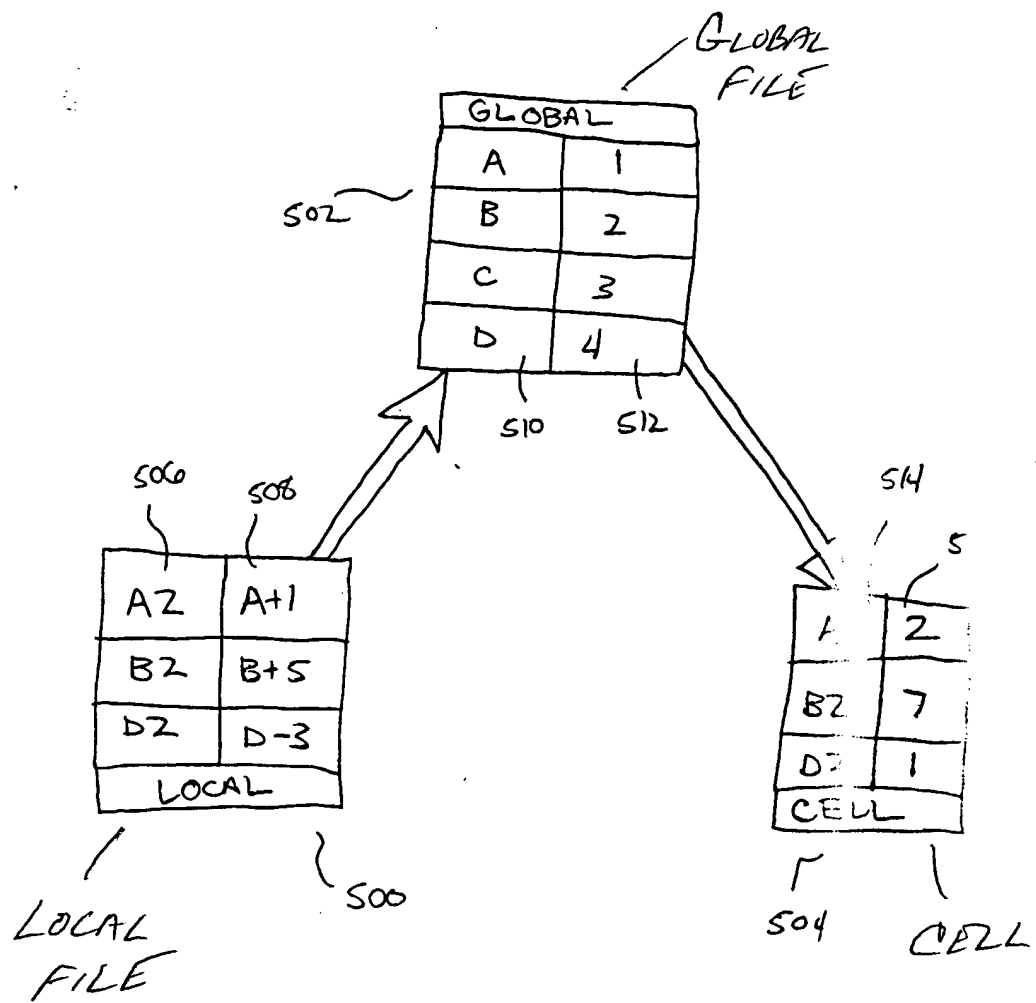


FIG 4